

HONORABLE MARSHA J. PECHMAN

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT SEATTLE

IN RE WASHINGTON MUTUAL
MORTGAGE BACKED SECURITIES
LITIGATION

This Document Relates to: ALL CASES

Master Case No. 2:09-cv-00037-MJP

**REPLY IN SUPPORT OF LEAD
PLAINTIFFS' MOTION AND
MEMORANDUM FOR LEAVE TO
AMEND TO ADD JPMC AS A
DEFENDANT IN THIS ACTION**

**NOTE ON MOTION CALENDAR:
JULY 15, 2011**

I. INTRODUCTION

J.P. Morgan Chase Bank, N.A ("JPMC") has filed an opposition to Plaintiffs' motion for leave to amend to add JPMC as a Defendant or, in the alternative, to substitute JPMC as the successor-in-interest to Washington Mutual Bank ("WMB") that is far more noteworthy for what it omits than for what it actually says. Tellingly, in the opposition:

- JPMC argues that Plaintiffs' proposed amendment would be futile because Plaintiffs cannot show that WMB's Executive Vice-President David Beck controlled WaMu Capital Corp., WaMu Asset Acceptance Corp., or WaMu Mortgage Securities Corp. – but JPMC fails to mention any of the specific facts and evidence contained in the Senate Permanent Subcommittee's April 13, 2011 Report, or Beck's opening statement before the Subcommittee, or Beck's actual testimony, *all of which show that Beck controlled the other WaMu entities*.

- JPMC argues that it did not assume the WMB control person liabilities when it purchased WMB from the FDIC – but the language in the Purchase & Assumption (“P&A”) Agreement between JPMC and the FDIC is ambiguous and the FDIC has recently revealed that its intent in structuring the sale of WMB was to provide for a broad assumption of liability by JPMC.
- JPMC argues that Plaintiffs’ proposed amendment is not timely even though Plaintiffs had no way of ascertaining the intent of the FDIC and JPMC when entering into the P&A Agreement and *did not learn the FDIC’s intent in structuring the sale to JPMC until the FDIC filed its papers in the Deutsche Bank case*. The court in *Deutsche Bank* agreed that extrinsic evidence was needed to interpret the breadth of the assumption of liabilities language in the P&A Agreement.
- JPMC argues that Plaintiffs’ proposed amendment would prejudice this litigation – even though *none of the Defendants in this litigation have opposed or even responded to Plaintiffs’ motion for leave to amend* to add JPMC as a defendant and motion to substitute JPMC for WMB under Rule 25(c).
- JPMC argues that Plaintiffs are required to exhaust administrative remedies under FIRREA before pursuing their claims against JPMC – even though the *claims Plaintiffs are asserting here could not be resolved through the administrative process*, and, thus, exhaustion is not required.

In sum, JPMC has provided no valid basis for denying Plaintiffs’ motion for leave to amend or for denying their motion to substitute JPMC as the successor-in-interest to WMB under Rule 25(c). Accordingly, Plaintiffs’ motion should be granted in its entirety.

II. ARGUMENT

A. Plaintiffs’ Proposed Amendment Is Not Futile

JPMC argues in its opposition that Plaintiffs’ proposed amendment is futile because Plaintiffs have not pled a plausible claim against JPMC under the Securities Act. JPMC’s argument has two parts: first, JPMC argues that Plaintiffs have not sufficiently alleged a “control person” claim under Section 15 of the Securities Act against WMB; and, second, JPMC argues that Plaintiffs have not sufficiently alleged that JPMC assumed the WMB control person claims when JPMC acquired WMB from the FDIC on September 25, 2008. JPMC is wrong on both accounts.

1. David Beck Had Complete Control Over WaMu Capital Corp., WaMu Asset Acceptance Corp., and WaMu Mortgage Securities Corp. in His Capacity as Head of WaMu's Capital Markets Organization

Plaintiffs can easily establish that WMB Executive Vice-President David Beck controlled WaMu Capital Corp., WaMu Asset Acceptance Corp and WaMu Mortgage Securities Corp. in his capacity as head of WMB's capital markets organization. Indeed, Beck's control over WaMu Capital Corp. (the entity that acted as the underwriter on all of WMB's securitization deals) as well as WaMu Asset Acceptance Corp. and WaMu Mortgage Securities Corp. (the entities that purchased the mortgage loans from WMB and sold them to the trusts for the WaMu Pass-Through Certificates) has been incredibly well-documented.

For instance, in Beck's opening statement to the Senate Subcommittee on Permanent Investigations, which has been investigating WaMu for almost two years, Beck stated:

I understand that the Subcommittee is interested in various topics related to *my work in WaMu's capital markets organization* and to *my role and responsibilities with respect to three WaMu subsidiaries: WaMu Capital Corp., which is called "WCC"; WaMu Asset Acceptance Corp., which was called "WAAC"; and Washington Mutual Mortgage Securities Corp., which was called "WMMSC" (pronounced "WIM-zic")*. . . . Like most other banks that originated mortgage loans, WaMu originated substantially more loans than it could keep on its balance sheet for investment purposes. And so WaMu's capital markets organization managed WaMu's overall strategy for selling mortgage loans that WaMu did not retain on its books. *During the time that I was head of capital markets for WaMu, people who reported to me were responsible for overseeing the entities that purchased and held loans that were to be sold into the secondary markets (WMMSC and WAAC, depending on the time period)*. WMMSC and WAAC purchased loans from WaMu, and from other mortgage originators, and held the loans until they were sold into the secondary market. WCC was a registered broker dealer and acted as an underwriter of securitization deals for a period of time beginning in 2004 and ending in the middle of 2007.

Opening Statement of David Beck (attached as Exhibit A to the Supplemental Declaration of Geoffrey M. Johnson in Support of Lead Plaintiffs' Motion for Leave to Amend to Add JPMC as a Defendant or, in the Alternative, Vacate the WMB Dismissal Order and Substitute JPMC ("Johnson Supp. Decl.")), at 1 (emphasis added).

Beck made similar admissions when testifying before the Senate Subcommittee:

1 *In early 2005, I received responsibility for the capital markets organization*
 2 *in Washington Mutual's Home Loans Group . . . I will use these brief*
 3 *remarks to highlight a few aspects of WaMu's capital markets organization.*
 4 *WaMu Capital Corp. acted as an underwriter of securitization transactions*
 5 *generally involving Washington Mutual Mortgage Securities Corp. or*
 6 *WaMu Asset Acceptance Corp. Generally, one of these two entities would*
 7 *sell loans into a securitization trust* in exchange for securities backed by the
 8 loans in question, and WaMu Capital Corp. would then underwrite the
 9 securities consistent with industry standards. As an underwriter, WaMu
 10 Capital Corp. sold mortgage-backed securities to a wide variety of
 11 institutional investors . . . Because WaMu's capital markets organization was
 12 engaged in the secondary mortgage market, it had ready access to information
 13 regarding how the market priced loan products. Therefore, *my team* helped
 14 determine the initial prices at which WaMu could offer loans by beginning
 15 with the applicable market prices for private or agency-backed mortgage
 16 securities and adding the various costs WaMu incurred in the origination, sale,
 17 and servicing of home loans.

11 David Beck Testimony (attached as Exhibit B to the Johnson Supp. Decl.), at 38, 39 of 91
 12 (emphasis added); *see also id.*, at 42 of 91 ("Senator Coburn: Alright, **Mr. Beck, were you**
 13 **made aware ever during your time at WMCC [WaMu Capital Corp.] that the loans**
 14 **underlying WaMu Securities were having problems? Mr. Beck: I knew that we had**
 15 **underwriting problems, yes.**") (emphasis added); *id.*, at 47 of 91 ("Senator Levin: Purchasers
 16 of these securities are relying on you as an underwriter to provide truthful information. You
 17 had evidence of the fraud. You knew of it. You had heard of it. And yet you did not check
 18 to see whether or not the fraud-tainted mortgages were removed from the security. Wasn't
 19 that your job or part of your job? Mr. Beck: I understood that there was fraud.").

20 Similarly, the Report that the Senate Subcommittee prepared on April 13, 2011 –
 21 which Plaintiffs have referenced in their Proposed Amended Complaint – contains numerous
 22 emails and other documents to and from David Beck showing that he had total and complete
 23 control over WaMu Capital Corp., WaMu Asset Acceptance Corp. and WaMu Mortgage
 24 Securities Corp., and was intimately involved in running those aspects of WaMu's business,
 25 in his capacity as head of WaMu's capital markets organization. *See, e.g.*, Senate Report
 26 (attached as Exhibit C to the Johnson Supp. Decl.), at 122-25 (discussing David Beck's
 27

1 leadership role in the “Deficient Securitization Practices” of WaMu Capital Corp., WaMu
 2 Asset Acceptance Corp. and WaMu Mortgage Securities Corp.); *id.*, at 125-36 (discussing
 3 David Beck’s leadership role in WaMu Capital Corp.’s “Securitizing Delinquency-Prone
 4 Loans”). In sum, the Senate Report shows definitively that WaMu Capital Corp., WaMu
 5 Asset Acceptance Corp. and WaMu Mortgage Securities Corp. all were run on a day-to-day
 6 basis by David Beck and “his team” in WMB’s capital markets organization.¹

7 2. JPMC Assumed The WMB Control Person Liabilities

8 JPMC goes on to argue that amendment is futile because JPMC did not assume
 9 WMB’s control person liabilities when it purchased the assets and liabilities of WMB. As
 10 described in Plaintiffs’ moving papers, this argument fails because the P&A Agreement uses
 11 general but broad language with respect to JPMC’s assumption of WMB’s liabilities, and
 12 does not explicitly carve out the WMB control person claims from those that JPMC assumed
 13 when it purchased WMB from the FDIC. The P&A Agreement is ambiguous on this point
 14 and its interpretation turns on the intent of the parties when entering into the contract. Thus,
 15 the question of whether the P&A Agreement transferred WMB’s control person liabilities to
 16 JPMC cannot be decided on the pleadings alone, and amendment is not futile.

17 **B. Plaintiffs’ Proposed Amendment Is Timely**

18 JPMC also argues that Plaintiffs’ proposed amendment is untimely because Deutsche
 19 Bank filed its case against the FDIC and JPMC on August 26, 2009 and, from the outset of
 20 that litigation, alleged that “based on the Purchase and Assumption Agreement, and on
 21 information and belief, the Trustee believes that JPMC has assumed the [WMB] liabilities.”
 22 This argument ignores the main point in Plaintiffs’ motion for leave to amend. The language
 23 in the P&A Agreement describing the breadth of the liabilities transferred to JPMC is unclear

24 ¹ This Court may take judicial notice of documents that are referenced in a complaint. *United States v.*
 25 *Richie*, 342 F.3d 903, 908-09 (9th Cir. 2003). In addition, the Court may take judicial notice of David Beck’s
 26 opening statement, his testimony and the Senate Subcommittee report under Fed. R. Evid. 201. Furthermore, to
 27 the extent that Plaintiffs are seeking leave to amend, the Court should allow them to include the facts and
 testimony from the Senate’s report, David Beck’s opening statement and his testimony in their Proposed
 Amended Complaint under Fed. R. Civ. P. 15(a).

1 and therefore turns on the intent of the parties – *i.e.*, the FDIC and JPMC – when they
 2 entered into the agreement. Although JPMC accuses Plaintiffs of acting tactically by failing
 3 to challenge the FDIC’s motion to substitute itself as the successor of WMB, JPMC offers
 4 absolutely nothing to support this nonsensical conclusion.² Here Plaintiffs were faced with
 5 an ambiguous contract and the representations of the FDIC, the arm of the U.S. Government
 6 that had devised the WMB sale transaction, with respect to which party had succeeded to
 7 WMB’s obligations for securities laws violations. Under these circumstances it is hardly
 8 surprising and not unreasonable that Plaintiffs accepted the FDIC’s position at face value.

9 By contrast, Deutsche Bank was not a party to the negotiations of the P&A
 10 Agreement, and, thus, the fact that Deutsche Bank was asserting a belief that JPMC might be
 11 on the hook for the WaMu liabilities (though it was not so certain as to sue JPMC in the first
 12 instance) told Plaintiffs nothing about the actual intent of the parties at the time of the WMB
 13 seizure and sale to JPMC. It was not until the FDIC filed its motion to dismiss -- and
 14 particularly its Surreply on March 7, 2011 -- that Plaintiffs learned that the FDIC had
 15 consciously chosen a structure for the sale of WMB that differed from other bank seizures,
 16 and that here the seemingly broad but vague assumption of liabilities contract language was
 17 intended to capture liabilities that went far beyond those incurred to depositors or arising in
 18 other routine banking business. That was the key disclosure that alerted Plaintiffs that they
 19 had viable claims against JPMC. Until the FDIC provided the window into its intent and
 20 negotiations with JPMC at the time of the seizure and sale, Plaintiffs in this case had no basis
 21 to second-guess the FDIC’s earlier portrayal of its role as successor to WMB’s liabilities for
 22 securities violations.

23
 24 ² By the same token JPMC’s “judicial estoppel” argument is meritless. “Judicial estoppel . . . precludes
 25 a party from gaining an advantage by taking one position, and then seeking a second advantage by taking an
 26 incompatible position.” *Rissetto v. Plumbers & Steamfitters Local 343*, 94 F.3d 597, 600 (9th Cir. 1996).
 27 JPMC has identified no “unfair advantage” enjoyed by Plaintiffs from its failure to oppose the FDIC’s
 substitution motion. *See, e.g., Hartford Fire Ins. Co. v. Leahy*, -- F.Supp.2d --, 2011 WL 813458, at *9 (W.D.
 Wash. Mar. 1, 2011). Obviously, it is Plaintiffs who have most significantly suffered from the delay in
 prosecuting the securities claims against JPMC generated by the FDIC’s actions.

Moreover, as is more fully described in Plaintiffs' moving papers, even if Plaintiffs' proposed amendment were untimely (and it is not), untimeliness alone is not a valid basis for denying a motion for leave to amend. *See, e.g., DCD Programs, Ltd. v. Leighton*, 833 F.2d 183, 186 (9th Cir. 1987) ("[D]elay alone no matter how lengthy is an insufficient ground for denial of leave to amend.")

C. Plaintiffs' Proposed Amendment Would Not Prejudice The Litigation

JPMC goes on to argue that Plaintiffs' proposed amendment would prejudice the litigation. JPMC makes this argument even though *none* of Defendants have opposed Plaintiffs' motion to amend. Indeed, responses to Plaintiffs' motion for leave to amend were due on July 11, 2011. None of the parties to this litigation filed a response. Instead, the only filing on July 11, 2011 came from JPMC, in the form of its motion to intervene for the purposes of opposing Plaintiffs' motion to amend. For the reasons described in Plaintiffs' moving papers, and as the silence of the Defendants to this motion tacitly admits, no prejudice will be imposed by adding JPMC as a party to this litigation at this juncture.

D. Plaintiffs Need Not Exhaust Administrative Remedies to Sue JPMC

Finally, JPMC argues that amendment should not be allowed because Plaintiffs have failed to exhaust their claim through the FIRREA administrative process. Here, the recent opinion in *American Nat'l Ins. Co. v. FDIC*, -- F.3d --, 2011 WL 2506043 (D.C. Cir. June 24, 2011) is directly on point. There, a group of bondholders sued JPMC for tortious interference with a contract and unjust enrichment for JPMC's alleged misconduct when acquiring the assets and liabilities of WMB from the FDIC. The FDIC intervened in the action and – along with JPMC – argued that the bondholders were required to exhaust their administrative remedies under FIRREA before pursuing the claims against JPMC. The district court agreed and dismissed the bondholder's claims.

On appeal, the D.C. Circuit reversed. Chief Judge David Sentelle, writing for the full panel, explained that FIRREA's exhaustion requirement applies "only to claims that are

1 resolvable through the FIRREA administrative process.” *Id.* at *4. Claims resolvable
 2 through the administrative process include those “where either the failed depository
 3 institution or the FDIC-as-receiver might be held legally responsible to pay or otherwise
 4 resolve the asserted claim.” *Id.* at *6. The Court went on to explain: “Where, as here,
 5 neither the failed depository institution nor the FDIC-as-receiver bears any legal
 6 responsibility for claimant’s injuries, the claims process offers only a pointless bureaucratic
 7 exercise. And we doubt Congress intended to force claimants into a process incapable of
 8 resolving their claims.” *Id.* at *6 (internal citation omitted). That is true of this case.³

9 III. CONCLUSION

10 For the foregoing reasons, Plaintiffs’ motion for leave to amend should be granted.

11 Dated: July 15, 2011

Respectfully submitted,

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22
 23 ³ The cases that JPMC cites in its opposition are not on point because they involve liabilities that were
 24 unquestionably carved out from the P&A and remained with WMB. *See, e.g., In re Shirk*, 437 B.R. 592, 597
 25 (Bankr. S.D. Ohio 2010) (claims asserted by mortgage borrowers for violations of the Truth in Lending Act,
 26 which are explicitly carved out of P&A under Section 2.5, which carves out all “Borrower Claims); *Rockwell v.*
 27 *Chase Bank*, No. 10-1602, 2011 WL 2292353, at *3-4 (W.D. Wash. June 7, 2011) (claims by credit card
 borrowers for Truth in Lending Act violations that were explicitly carved out from the P&A in Section 2.5).
 There is no similar language in the P&A carving out the WMB control person claims, and, thus, these liabilities
 were assumed by JPMC when it purchased WMB from the FDIC.

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on July 15, 2011, I electronically filed the foregoing with the Clerk of the Court using the CM/ECF system which will send electronic notification of such filing to all counsel of record and additional persons listed below:

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